



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Frederick Law Olmsted NHS Press Release

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### **Boston Public Library Hosts Panel on Travel Writers Exploring Social Conditions in the American South, Featuring Works by Olmsted and Walton April 12, 2005**

On Tuesday evening, April 12, at 6:30 pm, the Boston Public Library in Copley Square hosts a panel discussion and literary forum entitled “**Looking Southward: The Southern Travelogue from Frederick Law Olmsted to the Present.**” A book sale and signing featuring works by Frederick Law Olmsted and members of the panel will take place immediately preceding the program at 6:00 pm. The event is **FREE** and open to the public. Advance registration is suggested. **For information, contact Brookline Adult & Community Education at 617-730-2700.**

“Looking Southward” will explore the American South’s society, economy, and race relations through the lens of important travel writers of the past 150 years. It will examine the role of these writers – Mark Twain, James Agee, and V. S. Naipaul among them - in fostering a deeper understanding of this complex, and often conflicted, region. The discussion will place the spotlight on the influential writings of renowned park designer Frederick Law Olmsted, who traveled the South extensively before the Civil War as a *New York Daily Times* special correspondent. Panel member Anthony Walton, an African American author and educator raised in the Midwest, will offer a contemporary perspective based on recent travels through Mississippi exploring his family and cultural roots. Walton’s *Mississippi: An American Journey* was selected as a notable book of 1996 by *The New York Times*.

The panel consists of Dr. Charles Beveridge of American University, Series Editor of *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*; Anthony Walton, Writer-in-Residence at Bowdoin College; and Dr. John Stauffer, Professor of English at Harvard University.

“Looking Southward” takes place in the Rabb Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Copley Square, Boston. Sponsors are the National Park Service/Frederick Law Olmsted and Boston African American National Historic Sites, Brookline Adult & Community Education, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks, with additional support from Eastern National.

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